

Vases

Drawn 29

Chang

71.2009 DEC 146



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/curiosrelicschinlinc_21

Curios and Relics

China, Kitchenware, & Glassware

Vases

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

2

11. 2. 35

Dear Mr Warren.

Re. the enclosed. I have a superb old Lincoln urn about 5-6" high basalt Wedgwood ware. \$5. It is a real acquisition for a Lincoln collector.

Dennis Moore
of MCA Boston Mass.



Curio - Vase

November 6, 1935

Mr. Dennis Moore
Y.M.C.A.
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Moore:

I regret to advise you that we are not interested in Lincoln curios but we do have here the largest collection of Lincoln literature which has ever been assembled and if you come across rare Lincoln pamphlets or books we would like very much to hear from you as we are always in the market for items of this kind.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director



8. 5. 39.

62 Heathfield Rd.
Croydon -
England.

Mess Lincolniana.
Box 1110.

Fort Wayne.

Ind.

Dear Sir

I beg to represent

a Wedgwood-type vase
with medallions of

Lincoln, Franklin & Washington
pale green, with portraits in
white raised decoration.

Surrounded by laurel wreaths -

The vase is 7 inches in height
and 20 inches in circumference.

I have tried to sketch it :-

There are three handles & three
medallions, finely done.

It might be by Adams, Meigh
or Spode. many of the

Staffordshire potters copied.

The Wedgwood pieces.

The price would be \$8, postage
paid ~~if~~. The price would be

forwarded for inspection.
There are two almost imperceptible
cracks round one of the handles

Yrs faithfully,
E M James. Miss

A fine old Black stand included
in the price _____



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1585

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

March, 1970

Recent Library-Museum Acquisitions

At the end of every year a record is compiled of the acquisitions of our Lincoln Library-museum. Some of the 1968-1969 acquisitions are considered to be of major importance in the field of research: such as three folios of letters, documents and signatures relative to the ancestral Virginia Lincolns; a document by Benjamin Helm of Hardin County, Kentucky, dated 1809, which mentions Thomas Lincoln as a guard of prisoners; documents signed by the Sixteenth President; letters addressed to Lincoln; autographs of Presidents; legal documents in the handwriting of Stephen A. Douglas and letters and documents of Lincoln's contemporaries and associates.

One particularly fine acquisition is a Woodford County (Illinois) circuit court docket (1851-1855) kept largely by Judge David Davis. The docket contains fifty-two Abraham Lincoln entries indicating that thirty-one times he represented the plaintiff and twenty-one times he represented the defendant.

Other minor items include carte-de-visite photographs, stereoscopic slides, Magnus prints, Lincoln lithographs, Lincoln postage stamps, miscellaneous philatelic material, currency, sculpture, plaques, medals and medallions, eagle torch light (Wide Awakes, 1860) and souvenir Lincoln spoons.

While some of the material described above does not lend itself for exhibit purposes, a few of the relics and novelties that have been recently acquired (not previously mentioned) and are now on display are here illustrated and described. Some of the objects are of historical significance, while some of the novelty items appeal to the casual visitor and have become "conversation pieces."

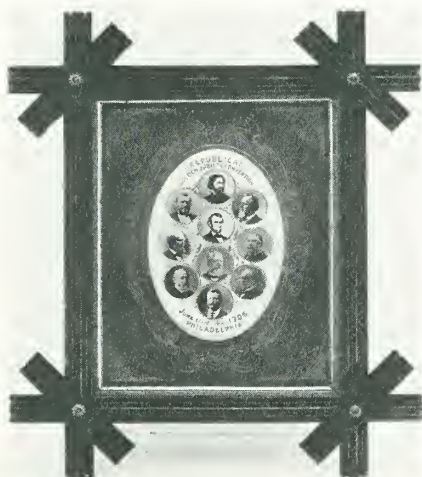
R. G. M.

Lincoln Badges and Buttons

In recent months quite a number of Lincoln badges and buttons have been acquired for the collection. These were issued by the Republican party at their conventions, the Grand Army of the Republic at their re-unions, the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company at its sales conferences, the American Legion at its conclaves and numerous Lincoln clubs at their annual meetings.

Two small celluloid Lincoln buttons in the collection often occasion some comment. One bears the inscription: "Friend of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion" which has reference to the ill-fated American (Communist-inspired) military group which fought in the Spanish Civil War. The other button bears the inscription: "Penna Klan Reunion. Gettysburg, Pa. Sept. 19th and 20th, 1925."

A recent and most significant addition to this collection is a framed celluloid button (the word button is used for the want of a better name) which measures 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". It bears the inscription: "Republican Golden Jubilee Convention June 17th 18th 19th, 1906." Ten portraits appear on the huge button. They are Fremont, Grant, Garfield, Harrison, Roosevelt, McKinley, Arthur, Hayes, Lincoln and Blaine.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This political button bears the inscription "Republican Jubilee Convention June 17th 18th 19th, 1906." The ten portraits have been identified as Fremont, Grant, Garfield, Harrison, Roosevelt, McKinley, Arthur, Hayes, Lincoln and Blaine.

Stanton's Flag

This flag or pennant hung in Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton's office during the Civil War. It came to the Lincoln Library-museum as a gift from Mr. Henry Clark Ottiwell of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.

Mr. Ottiwell came into possession of the flag on the death of his aunt, Mrs. Adelaide Butler, the widow of Dr. Winthrop Butler of Vineyard Haven, a veteran of the war.

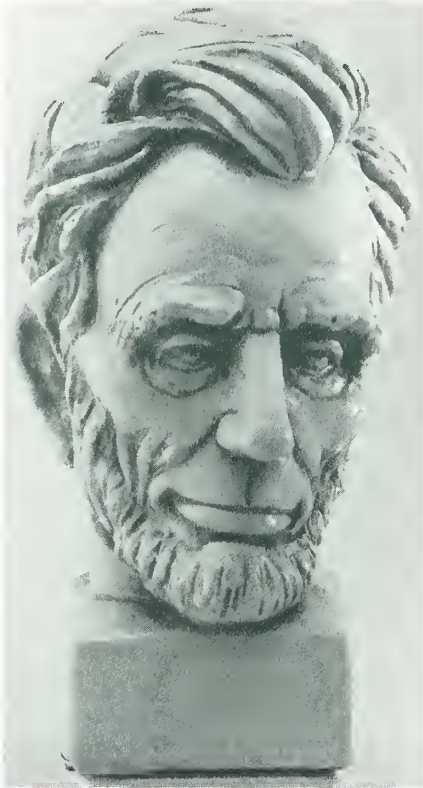
Dr. Butler served in the Navy and was on board the *Saratoga* during the blockade of the Confederate ports. After the war he practiced medicine at Vineyard Haven until the early 1900's. He died in 1907.

The flag was given to Dr. Butler by Mrs. Habersham, the daughter of Secretary Stanton. She lived at Martha's Vineyard for many years and was a friend and patient of Dr. Butler.

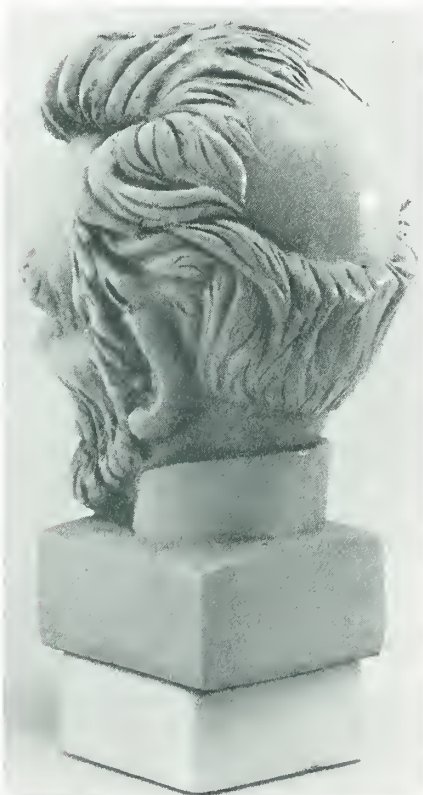


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Flag which hung in Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton's office during the Civil War.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Front view of the bald-headed Lincoln believed to have been sculptured by a Canadian artist.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Rear view of the bald-headed Lincoln which was acquired in a gift shop in Port Arthur, Ontario.

The Bald Headed Lincoln

One of the novelty items among the Foundation's recent acquisitions is a plaster head of Lincoln revealing a bald spot. This interesting item was presented to the Foundation by Michael Grubnick, West Bearskin Lake, Gun Flint Trail, Grand Marais, Minnesota who found it in a gift shop in Port Arthur, Ontario. So far, all efforts to discover the name of the Canadian sculptor have proved futile. Needless to state, this item of Lincoln sculpture has become a "conversation piece" as Lincoln had a fine head of hair without the slightest sign of a bald spot.

Gutta Percha Vase

Gutta-percha is defined as a whitish-to-brown substance resembling rubber but containing more resin and changing less on vulcanization than the latex of several Malaysian trees of the sapodilla family. Despite its complicated description it became an important substance for the manufacture of daguerreotype cases, which are seen so often today in antique shops. Undoubtedly, gutta-percha was used during the middle years of the 19th century in the production of other objects, one of which is a Lincoln vase recently acquired for the Foundation's collection.

The vase measures 5½" tall by 3½" in diameter. On opposite sides it bears a molded bust of Lincoln with an eagle and wreath along with other decorative features. Undoubtedly, gutta-percha vases are a rare commodity today, but to find one with a Lincoln bas-relief on two sides is an antiquarian's dream come true.

Middleton's Chromo-Lithograph of Abraham Lincoln

While the Lincoln Library-museum has owned for a very long time a copy of the famous Middleton chromo-lithograph of Lincoln, we were most fortunate to secure another copy of the framed portrait that was once the property of Lincoln's third and last law partner, William H. Herndon.

This portrait, copyrighted in 1864, was produced in considerable quantities in 1865, by E. C. Middleton of Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon receiving a proof copy of the portrait, Lincoln wrote Middleton on December 30, 1864: "Your picture presented by Mr. Lutz is, in the main, very good. From a line across immediately above the eye-brows, downward it appears to me perfect. Above such line I think it is not so good, — that is, while it gives perhaps a better fore-head, it is not quite true to the original. If you were present I could tell you wherein, but I can not well do so on paper. The next best thing, I suppose, would be to carefully study a photograph." It is believed that Lincoln's suggested changes were incorporated in the final production.

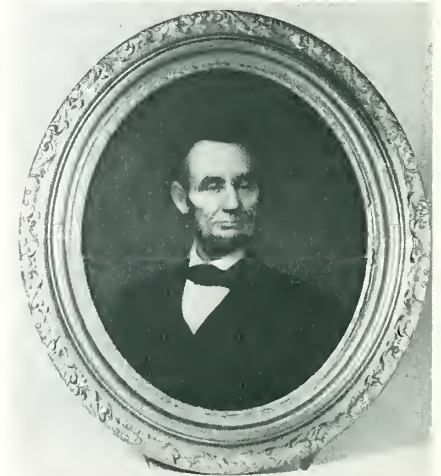


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
A gutta-percha vase which bears on opposite sides the molded bust of Abraham Lincoln.

Wax Portrait

Benjamin Franklin, and sometimes George Washington, became favorite subjects for portrayal in wax. As this type of art was developed in Europe in the Eighteenth Century, it would be expected that the great artists in this field would not treat many American subjects. Some of the better known wax modelers were Bernhard Caspar Hardy, Samuel Percy, Christopher Curtius (uncle of Madame Tussaud) and Madame Tussaud.

One could never hope to find a great wax portrait of Abraham Lincoln. Then, too, this type of portrayal in its finer aspects is today practically a lost art. However, a wax portrait of Lincoln has been acquired by the Foundation. A careful study of the physical features of the portrait leads one to believe that it was produced from a crude mold as it seems to lack the finer details of sculptural art.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Middleton's Chromo-Lithograph of Abraham Lincoln which once was the property of William H. Herndon, the President's third law partner and biographer.



